

(d) The work will be progressed rapidly once the land becomes available. Adequate funds would be provided accordingly.

[Translation]

Encroachment of Railway Land

3013. SHRI BRIJ BHUSHAN TIWARI : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a large number of plots belonging to Railways have been illegally occupied in Delhi with the connivance of officers of Railways working on high posts;

(b) if so, the acreage of the land occupied;

(c) whether the Government propose to take action to get the said land vacated and initiate action against the officers found involved in it after conducting inquiry in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details of the action proposed to be taken in this regard and the time by which the said Railway land is likely to be got vacated from the illegal occupation?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Media Distribution System

3014. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to formulate any system to show various TV Channels, without the cable network with the help of 'Media Distribution System';

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which the above is likely to be started;

(c) whether these facilities will also be made available in small cities; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Wirelese Cable System, otherwise known as MMDS (Multichannel Multipoint Distribution System) is one of the various options being envisaged by the Government to improve the reach of its channels.

(b) to (d) The scheme is likely to be started during Ninth Plan subject to availability of resources. A detailed scheme is being worked out on an experimental basis at Bombay and Delhi.

[English]

Electrification Programme

3015. SHRI NARAYAN ATHAWALAY : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have recently reviewed electrification programme implemented during the last three years in relation to the targets set therefor;

(b) if so, the details of achievement/performance recorded with percentage of shortfall in relation to the target set and back-log of electrification Zone-wise; and

(c) the details of the programme proposed to be executed during the current year Zone-wise in general and Maharashtra in particular?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. Review of Railway Electrification works is a continuous exercise. During VIII Five Year Plan a target of 2700 Route Kilometre for electrification was fixed. In the first four years of the Plan 2066 route kilometre have been electrified and electrification of 634 route kilometre is planned during 1996-97. The targets and achievements of electrification under Railway Electrification-Plan Head during last three years are as under :

Year	Target (RKM)	Achievement (RKM)	Shortfall/ Excess%age
1993-94	600	505	- 15.8%
1994-95	500	473	- 5.4%
1995-96	600	609	+ 1.5%

Zone-wise details of Route Kilometre electrified during last 3 years are indicated below:

Zone	Route Kilometre electrified		
	1993-94	1994-95	1995-96
C.R.	136	89	-
E.R.	69	188	81
N.R.	34	82	146
S.R.	13	-	132
S.C.R.	11	40	221
S.E.R.	219	74	29
W.R.	23	-	-
Total	505	473	609

Details of the electrification programme during 1996-97 Zone-wise are as under:

Zone	RKM
C.R.	-
E.R.	247
N.R.	46
S.E.R.	90
S.C.R.	179
S.R.	72
W.R.	-
	634

In the State of Maharashtra, electrification programme during 1996-97 is Nil. On completion of 634 Route Kilometre in 1996-97 there would be no backlog of the VIII Plan target.

[Translation]

Telephone Connections in Sambhal, U.P.

3016. SHRI D. P. YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of persons who have applied for telephone connections in Sambhal Parliamentary Constituency in Uttar Pradesh during the last two years;

(b) the number of persons provided with telephone connections so far;

(c) whether any scheme has been formulated by the Government for the persons in the waiting list; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) The number of persons applied for telephone connections in Sambhal Parliamentary constituency in Uttar Pradesh during the last two years in as given below :

1994-95	-	378
1995-96	-	732

(b) The number of persons provided with telephone connections so far is 934.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Waiting list is current except in Sambhal, Behjoi, Sirsi and Raja Ka Majhola. Expansion of exchange capacity has been planned at Sambhal by March, 97 and for other places mentioned above during 1997-98, to clear the waiting list.

[English]

Air Bus in Cochin Airport

3017. SHRI P.C. THOMAS :

SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN :

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether provision has been made for landing aircraft A-320 at Cochin Airport;

(b) if not, the time by which such provision is likely to be made; and

(c) the details of development made at Cochin and Calicut airports in Kerala during each of the last three years and the current year, so far?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) and (b) The runway available at Cochin Airport is 6000 feet but it is a unidirectional runway and the available landing distance is only 5,645 feet. A Committee was set up to assess whether airbus A-320 operation to/from Cochin airport could be carried out safely. This Committee has representatives from Director General of Civil Aviation, Indian Airlines, CTE Hyderabad and Airports Authority of India. The Committee concluded that in view of the limited runway length, unidirectional operation, weather conditions, Airbus A-320 operation to/from Cochin can be permitted provided certain conditions are met. The matter had been taken up by this Ministry with Indian Airlines, Airports Authority of India, Naval Authorities and Secretary, Transport Authorities, Kerala for providing requisite ground facilities at Cochin Airport.

(c) The details of the development made at Cochin and Calicut Airports in Kerala during the last three years and current year are as under:

Cochin

Airports Authority of India (AAI) has extended the existing apron at an estimated cost of Rs. 88.40 lakhs and the existing car parking area has been extended to cater to 100 cars at a time at an estimated cost of Rs. 23.25 lakhs.

Calicut

AAI has constructed a new International Terminal Building with 400 passengers capacity at an estimated cost of Rs. 6.01 crores. The extension of runway from 6000 ft to 9000 ft is in progress and is expected to complete by January, 2000. The extension of apron to accommodate one AB-300 and 3 AB-320 class of aircraft at an estimated cost of about Rs. 89.88 crores is in progress and is expected to complete by November, 1997.